THE LAST SOLDIER OF SOMME

ACT 3

CHAPTER 1

THIS ISN'T MY STORY...

BUT IT IS A STORY FOR ME TO TELL...

IT IS A STORY OF MATTERS BOTH GREAT AND SMALL, SPANNING NATIONS ACROSS THE GLOBE AND TOUCHING THE LIVES OF THOSE

THAT LIVE WITHIN IT'S BORDERS.

BUT WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE,
THIS IS REALLY JUST THE STORY OF A
BOY...

... WHO FOUND HIMSELF IN A STRANGE LAND...

... WISHING HE WAS HOME...

JUNE 30TH, 1916

Hi sis,

How are you? I'm in France right now, near a small town called Beaumont-hamel. I know you love all this geography stuff so if you look on a map, we are close by a river called the Somme.

The regiment's hooked up with the British forces which was quite a surprise to the rest of the boys, since most of us thought they would lump us in with the Canadians. Heck, most of the Brits think we are Canadians.

Makes me wonder why I left home a little bit.

Anyways, the guy in charge of everybody is this British uppity up named Haig. We don't really see much of him but he does talk to the troops from time to time.

There's an excitement in his eyes that is unsettling. When he looks at us, I feel as if he is staring at something far off in the distance...

For the past week, we've been shelling the germans with our artillery. I mean really pounding the heck out of them. The guns have been firing non stop, day and night. We must have spent millions of shells on those poor bastards.

I've... seen.. and done alot of things in this war Charlene. It's different than what everybody thought it would be like.

It's not an adventure. and there certainly isn't any glory. Not for for the poor guy on the other side, hiding in his hole, probably praying he will survive the night.

And not for me.

It... shames.. me to admit this, but every time those guns fire, i feel a little more at peace. Haig has assured us that there will be nothing left of Fritzy after the pounding we've given them.

Tommorow, we're just going to walk across

the Somme and take the field, probably without even a fight.

We are told that the war will probably end very soon after that and we'll be home in a month.

Can you believe it?

When I was home, I thought St. John's was such a small, insignificant place. Just a tiny speck. Now it's everything to me and it's the rest of the world that seems small.

I miss our house, and Ma and Pa...

.. I even miss you dummy...

Tell Ma and Pa to just wait a little

bit longer for me.

... I should have listened to you up on signal hill...

... I never should have left, but don't worry...

... I'm coming home soon.

JULY 1ST, 1916

HOLY...
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THIS PLACE... THIS USED TO BE A FOREST...
NO WAY FRITZ COULDA SURVIVED THIS...
THEY'VE EITHER HIGH TAILED IT OUTTA HERE OR THEY'RE IN PIECES

QUIT YOUR JAWIN' BOYS AND KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED. BARB WIRE'S STILL INTACT. ARTILLERY DIDN'T DO NUTHIN' AGAINST THAT.
NOBODY BUYS IT TODAY CUZ OF STUPIDITY.

WE'RE COMIN' UP ON THEIR TRENCHES SARGE.
S'ALL QUIET! WE WOULDA HEARD OR SEEN SOMETHING BY NOW IF THEY'RE STILL IN THERE.

I THINK...
I THINK IT'S OVER...

TO BE CONTINUED

AUTHOR'S NOTE:

AAANNNNNDDD.... I'M BACK! WELL THE LAST TWO WEEKS JUST FLEW BY AND I PROBABLY GOT ABOUT HALF OF WHAT I WANTED DONE DURING THAT TIME.

I WROTE THIS STRIP WHILE WATCHING THE ELECTION UNFOLD

AT 3 IN THE MORNING. IT CERTAINLY WAS A SURREAL EXPERIENCE. NOW, I'M NOT AMERICAN (I'M CANADIAN) AND I'M NOT THAT INTERESTED IN POLITICS BUT THE WHOLE ORDEAL HAS LEFT ME A LITTLE BIT DRAINED.

THIS NOTE IS WRITTEN THE MORNING AFTER AND I'M SITTING IN MY STUDIO LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW AT A PARTICULARLY NICE AUTUMN DAY. REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOUR POLITICS MAY OR MAY NOT BE, I HOPE THAT THE VERY REAL PAIN THAT BOTH SIDES FEEL CAN BE RECOGNIZED BY THE OTHER. LET'S REMEMBER WE ARE MORE ALIKE THAN WE DIFFER.

ANYHOOZ! ENOUGH OF THAT! IF YOU GUYS ARE INTO PROCESS STUFF, I BROKE DOWN THE STEPS I USED TO CREATE THE HALLOWEEN IMAGE AND POSTED IT ON MY PATREON BLOG. YOU CAN CHECK IT OUT AT WWW.PATREON.COM/TRIVUONG.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, A BIG SHOUT OUT TO THE FOLKS THAT PLEDGED LAST WEEK:

CHRISTINE C.
GLENNA O.
E. LATRICE
OWEN V.

THANKS FOR SUPPORITING THE COMIC!

IF YOU ARE ENJOYING THE COMIC PLEASE CLICK THE "LIKE" BUTTON, IT REALLY HELPS OUT!

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